

Top 5 Movies of 2012

By Lucas Smith

From kung-fu hijinx and Batman to a runaway slave with vengeance on his mind, and everything in between, 2012 was a great year for film. Bear in mind that there are many movies I haven't seen, so this list is based on what I have seen.

5. **Man with the Iron Fists**- The phrase "leave your brain at the door" is often used to describe bad movies that are entertaining. In the case of Iron Fists, it describes a movie that shows RZA has what it takes to make a competent film. While the story was weak, the film featured great cinematography, well choreographed fights, great symbolism and RZA's always good music. It left me anxious for whatever he's planning on next (it better be Afro Samurai with Samuel L. Jackson and Jaime Foxx)

4. **The Dark Knight Rises**- While Rises was disappointing, I still greatly enjoyed it. The action was much improved over the previous two, and both the acting and music were fantastic. Unfortunately, it was plagued by pacing issues and small problems that prevented it from overtaking Dark Knight's throne.

3. **Looper**- Looper was one of the bigger surprises for me this year. The trailers made it out to be the next Inception and while it didn't quite live up to that reputation, it was still an incredibly well done sci-fi flick. Featuring great on screen chemistry from the two leads and an original story engrossed in morally grey areas, it's a movie that everyone needs to see.

2. **Prometheus**- Speaking of symbolism, let's take a look at what was one of my most anticipated movies of the year, Prometheus. Alien is one of my favorite films of all time and when I heard that Ridley Scott was returning for a prequel, I was ecstatic. It certainly had its issues, and it confused a lot of people but, in the end, it was a movie that was bold enough to tackle controversial issues all while giving Alien fans the sequel/prequel that they had been begging for for years.

1. **Django Unchained**- Love him or hate him, you can't deny that Quentin Tarantino knows how to make a movie. Filled to the brim with profanity, violence and more blood than a hospital, Django Unchained is the perfect tribute to spaghetti western blaxploitation. At the same time, it was able to intelligently explore the horrors of slavery and racism. Add this with the top notch acting and bizarre soundtrack featuring blues, soul and hip hop, and it's easy to see why I enjoyed this film so much.

However, what pushed this to the top of my list was the use of traditional filmmaking. From blood packets and jump cuts, to intentionally cheesy text scrolls, this film oozed style.